

Aristocracy and Democracy
Greek Art and Archaeology (550 – 450 BC)

Prof. Athena Tsingarida

Tuesdays 9am, Ioannou Centre Lecture Theatre

Lecture handouts (including a glossary of Greek and technical terms) presentations will be uploaded to the Canvas course page the day before or after each lecture.

The lectures examine the archaeology and art of the ancient Greek world which was organized during the period, 550 – 450 BC, into independent and often autonomous city-states (*poleis*) across the Mediterranean. The course covers the full range of surviving material evidence: urban organization, monumental architecture, statuary, ceramics, inscriptions and small finds. A specific focus is placed on the city of Athens (its urban center: *asty*) and its territory (*chora*) under the Peisistratids' tyranny, its transition to Classical democracy through the Cleisthenic reforms of 508/7 BC, the aftermath of the Persian Wars leading up to the Peace of Callias and the monumental building program on the Acropolis initiated by Perikles in 449 BC. The course also explores the material culture of other major city-states in mainland Greece (Sparta under Oligarchic rule), Sicily (Megara Hybleae), the Eastern Mediterranean (Samos) and Asia Minor (Miletus, Ephesus). Finally, it investigates the topography, monumental architecture and votive offerings in a few contexts beyond the polis such as the Panhellenic sanctuaries of Delphi and Olympia, while also examining the cultural interactions that shaped distinctive styles and artefacts.

Week 1: Setting the Stage: Material Evidence, Geographical and Chronological Scopes, Methodological Questions, and the Status of Craftsmen and their Crafts

Week 2: The Ancient Greek City-State (*Polis*) and its Urban Fabric (I)
From the Greek West to Asia Minor and the Legacy of Hippodamos of Miletos : Town Planning, Public and Private space
Athens and its Territory: The Archaeology of Tyranny (The Peisistratids)

Week 3: The Ancient Greek City-State (*polis*) and its Urban Fabric (II)
Athens and its Territory: The Archaeology of Democracy
The Archaeology of Sparta and its Territory

Week 4: Sacred Places and Sanctuaries: Definition and Rituals, Monumental Temples and the Development of Architectural Orders, Votive Offerings

Week 5: Attic Cemeteries from Aristocracy to Democracy: Funerary Practices, Burial Customs, Private and Public Grave Monuments

Week 6: A Central Communal Practice: The material culture of the Banquet and the Symposium (Eating and Drinking)

Week 7: Greek Art and Archaeology in a Mediterranean Perspective (550 – 480 BC): Cultural interactions with the East and West before the Persian Wars

Week 8: The Archaeology of the Persian Wars and their Aftermath (480 – 450 BC)

